

SAMPAN



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New England's Only Chinese-English Newspaper

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二零零二年四月十九日

TROUBLE PAYING FOR COURT INTERPRETERS



法庭翻譯員面臨生存危機

• 解救糧食卷 • 老人急腹症 • 人往高處怎麼走 •

INSIDE: ROBERT REICH INTERVIEW; RAYMOND CHANG INTERVIEW; FILM REVIEW; LOCAL NEWS

THE SAMPAN

A.A.C.A.

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Prostitutes Big Complaint in Chinatown, Say Chinatown Safety Committee Members

"Chinatown was in pretty good shape -- there were no rapes or homicides during the month of March," said District A-1 Boston Police Commander, Captain Bernard O'Rourke at the April 3 Chinatown Safety Committee meeting. But, despite the relatively positive announcement, there was one big complaint by those who attended the meeting: a rise in prostitution.

One woman resident at the meeting said that her husband is often approached by women who ask him if he's a cop, and once he says no, the women tell him that they're prostitutes and offer their services. Others complained about prostitutes making noise and trading drugs.

"We put two more cops -- on overtime -- in Chinatown on the weekends," said O'Rourke about the problem. He added that the cops will soon start focusing more on stopping sex sellers.

"I think we need to target the (prostitutes) this time," he said.

Shifting to a similar topic, the committee briefly discussed Centerfolds.

A March 26 hearing to appeal the strip club's liquor license was postponed.

"We're getting increasingly frustrated (about the postponing of this hearing)," said a committee member. "This was originally supposed to be in January."

The hearing, according to the committee members, is a preliminary meeting to see what the Washington Street Task Force's standing is on being able to have Centerfold's liquor license appealed. The Washington Street Task Force is a Chinatown group that works to get rid of adult entertainment and seedy elements in the area.

The hearing was postponed because the judge assigned said he had a conflict of interest. A new hearing has yet to be scheduled.

Also, as usual, police reported on Chinatown crime statistics. O'Rourke said that Chinatown saw 30 Part-one crimes, or violent incidents, last month (this number does not include non-part-one crimes). During March of last year, the number of part-one crimes was 37. O'Rourke said that police, during last month, made 39 arrests in Chinatown.

--Adam Smith

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Residents Talk About Liberty Place

By Talia Whyte

The debate over the development of the Liberty Place apartment complex continues within the Chinatown community. The developers of the project offer to bring more business to the Chinatown community and provide more housing for Boston's housing-crunched market. However, anger is growing among some residents over the potential negative effects of the developments. Sampan decided to find out what some residents thought about the project:

"I am worried about gentrification," said Marion Lee, a Chinatown resident. "I think the Chinese traditions and history eventually will be rubbed away over the time with this development proposal."

"The development will be good because it will bring more business to Chinatown," said a resident who only wanted to go by the name Jill. "I don't know why people wouldn't want more business in the area. The people who are going to move into these apartments are most likely going to use the businesses in the area, and that means more money for the community."

"I'm afraid my rent will go up because of the new apartments," said a man who only wanted to go by the name John. John is a Chinatown resident and shop owner. "I went to a couple of the public meetings the developers held, and it sounded like the rent for the apartments are going to be expensive. Even the so-called low-income apartments are still too costly. When the rent goes up, Chinatown residents are going to be forced to move out."

"I heard that the developers will be removing the Liberty Tree bookstore, and I think that is a good thing," said Yenny Wang, a store employee. "The apartment building will help move out some of the adult entertainment, hopefully. It might make the neighborhood more attractive for people to come to, hopefully. All the seedy sex shops and strip bars will maybe go away too."

"I am concerned about the rising rents, but I am also worried about the pedestrian traffic that will build up," said Maya Kwan-Johnson, Chinatown resident and restaurant employee, "I think the apartment building will attract people who will think this is still the red light district, and they can treat the neighborhood like trash."

"I think the development is good but I am worried about raising rents," said a woman who only wanted to go by the name Janny. "But, sometimes you have to make concessions if you want improvements. I would much rather have slightly higher rent and live in a safer and more respectable neighborhood, than to live in a neighborhood with tons of adult entertainment."

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

A GROUP OF ABOUT 40 CHINESE ELDERS AND SERVICE WORKERS MET AT THE STATE HOUSE ON APRIL 8 TO LOBBY FOR NO BUDGET CUTS IN STATE FUNDING FOR ELDER SERVICES.



THEY CAME FROM 80 MASON PLACE, SOUTH COVE PLAZA EAST, SOUTH COVE PLAZA WEST AND 10 TEMPLE PLACE. THE GROUP WAS PART OF A LARGER SENIOR CITIZEN RALLY AT THE STATE HOUSE, IN WHICH ABOUT 500 SENIORS ASKED FOR BETTER "HOME CARE SECURITY." (ABOVE PHOTO WAS PROVIDED BY BOSTON SENIOR HOME CARE)

IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM ALL OVER MASSACHUSETTS TO JOIN IN ON THIS YEAR'S IMMIGRANTS DAY RALLY AT THE STATE HOUSE ON APRIL 3. THE EVENT, SPONSORED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE ADVOCACY COALITION, ADVOCATED FOR FUNDING FOR MEDICAL INTERPRETERS AND FOR ADULT BASIC EDUCATION, AND ALLOWED IMMIGRANTS TO MEET WITH THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. FOR MORE ABOUT MIRA, GO TO WWW.MIRACALITION.ORG. (IN THE PHOTO ON RIGHT ARE ASIAN AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION STUDENTS AT THE RALLY)



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If you're a non-native English speaker living in America, knowing enough English to ask directions, buy groceries and open a bank account will get you pretty far. Knowing enough English to read the newspaper and hold a job in which you have to talk with American-born coworkers will get you even further. But, a fine line separates those who know enough English for everyday use - during which it's no big deal if they accidentally say 'yes' when they mean 'no' or they politely nod their head when they don't fully understand someone - and those who know enough English to save themselves from a potential disaster in the courts. That's why some judges, lawyers, interpreters, and immigrant advocates are so worried that the courts are running out of cash to pay for freelance interpreters.

"My views are that this is a crisis for Massachusetts. ...People who don't speak perfect English won't be getting justice," said John T. Lu, Associate Justice of the Boston Municipal Court.

Lu and many others fear that those who aren't proficient in English will have to wait to have their case heard - and that includes such immediate cases as those concerning domestic violence or restraining orders.

To respond to the problem, the Trial Court has tried to cut corners here and there to save money: The court froze new hires, reducing its 8,000 employees by 270; cut travel and supply expenses; gave early retirements to 349 employees, and asked some employees to work 8-days without pay. But, the courts and advocates say what they really need is more state money. The Trial Court Justice for Administration and Management Barbara A. Dortch-Okara is asking for \$1.7 million from the legislature for supplemental funds.

"I think (funding for interpreters) is something that should be considered one of the top funding priorities ... though I know that the legislature has some tough cuts to make," said Perry Wu, the president of the Asian-American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts.

Because of the state financial mess, however, advocates are asking the legislature for another way to help fix the problem. They want legislation that would extend the Trial Court's authority to transfer money from other Trial Court accounts into the account that includes money for per diem interpreters. Right now, the court's power to transfer money will expire April 30. They want to extend that to June 30.

COURT INTERPRETERS: THE WAY THE SYSTEM WORKS

While the money set aside for interpreters has been evaporating, the need for interpreters has been increasing. The Trial Court has only a handful of full-time interpreters, and uses the services of about 150 per diem interpreters. These per diem interpreters provide about 92% of the court's interpreting services. About 115 interpreters are called in a day to translate for about 35 languages in about 140 court divisions all over Massachusetts.

Those advocating for this service worry that if the money to pay the per diem workers runs out, these freelance interpreters will find other work.



After an April 11 lobbying effort meeting at the State House, interpreters, court workers and others traveled through the State House halls in groups of two or three to talk to representatives. Here, Thomas G. Brophy, middle, of Senator Robert S. Creedon, Jr.'s office, talks with interpreters Debra Danielle (middle right) and Annette Ramos (left) and Boston College Clinical Law Professor Carwina Weng (far right).

Then, once the money does get restored, there won't be enough qualified interpreters to meet the demand.

"On a daily basis I see the need for court interpreters," said Lu, stressing that interpreting for non-English speakers in the courtroom isn't something that can be left up to relatives or others who - though they many speak the needed languages to a certain degree - are not certified or experienced in the matter.

"Actually, yesterday, I heard a trial in which two different interpreters for Creole were needed," said Lu. "This is not a luxury or a minor thing. This is critical."

Lu said that if someone comes into his court room who can't speak sufficient English, he will not hear the case until there is an interpreter because "there's too much danger in damaging their case."

OTHER OBSTACLES

Besides trying to get money in this cash-strapped time, interpreter advocates face another hurdle, the stereotypes of who needs an interpreter. State Representative Peter Koutoujian, in a talk during a lobbying effort last week, pointed out that interpreter advocates will need to help break the stereotypes that the only people needing interpreter services are illegal immi-

grants or criminals. He pointed out that if someone is accused of a crime, and there is no interpreter available, he or she could have to spend a few nights in jail until one becomes available.

Perry Wu also reminds that the need for interpreters applies not only to non-English speakers who are involved in criminal cases, but also to non-English speakers who want to get a restraining order, who are involved in eviction proceedings or who otherwise are trying to defend themselves.

And while some of the more fiscally conservative folks might even argue that the state can't possibly fund interpreters for all languages all the time, Wu points out that most of the time the requests for interpreters is only for about "half a dozen languages - including Spanish and a some South East Asian languages, such as Chinese."

What will happen if the money runs out and the court can't transfer funds? According to advocates, thousands of non-English speakers will be denied their rights to the due process of law.

And even if they the can make it through this year, what will happen in the next fiscal year?

"We're asking for the funds that we think will be sufficient. But, last year we asked for the funds that we thought would be sufficient, and we didn't get them," said Augie Grace, who

handles legislative matters for the Administrative Office of the Trial Court.

SOME FACTS ABOUT INTERPRETERS:

IN THE FISCAL YEAR 1999, THE TRIAL COURT'S OFFICE OF COURT INTERPRETER SERVICES SERVED MORE THAN 23,000 NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING PARTIES AND WITNESSES IN CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES. SOME CASES INVOLVED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD CUSTODY AND EVICTIONS. IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2001, THE NUMBER OF PARTIES AND WITNESSES USING INTERPRETER SERVICES JUMPED BY 143%, TO 57,000. (THE MASSACHUSETTS LAW REFORM INSTITUTE)

THE MOST FREQUENTLY REQUESTED LANGUAGES ARE SPANISH, PORTUGUESE, KHMER, CAPE VERDEAN CREOLE, HAITIAN CREOLE, VIETNAMESE, MANDARIN, CANTONESE, POLISH, AND RUSSIAN.

ACCORDING TO STATE LAW, IT IS A RIGHT FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS TO HAVE ACCESS TO INTERPRETERS: "A NON-ENGLISH SPEAKER, THROUGHOUT A LEGAL PROCEEDING, SHALL HAVE A RIGHT TO THE ASSISTANCE OF A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE JUDGE, UNLESS THE JUDGE FINDS THAT NO QUALIFIED INTERPRETER OF THE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKER'S LANGUAGE IS REASONABLY AVAILABLE, IN WHICH EVENT THE NON-ENGLISH SPEAKER SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO A CERTIFIED INTERPRETER, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE JUDGE. THE COURT SHALL REPORT TO THE COORDINATOR OF INTERPRETER SERVICES EVERY INSTANCE IN WHICH A QUALIFIED INTERPRETER WAS FOUND NOT TO BE REASONABLY AVAILABLE."

ACCORDING TO THE OFFICE OF COURT INTERPRETERS, THERE ARE 59 SPANISH, 14 PORTUGUESE, 8 VIETNAMESE, 7 CHINESE AND 5 KHMER INTERPRETERS. OTHER COMMONLY NEEDED LANGUAGES INCLUDE RUSSIAN, POLISH, CAPE VERDEAN CREOLE AND HAITIAN CREOLE. IN THE CASE THAT NO INTERPRETER CAN BE FOUND, THE TRIAL COURT HAS MADE A CONTRACT WITH THE LANGUAGE LINE, WHICH PROVIDES INTERPRETERS OVER THE PHONE FOR INTERVIEWS, ARRAIGNMENTS OR OTHER SIMPLE PROCEEDINGS.

HOW MUCH DOES A PER DIEM INTERPRETER COST THE STATE? IF THEY'RE CERTIFIED, THEY EARN ABOUT \$250 A DAY FOR THEIR SERVICES IN COURT, AND ABOUT \$160 FOR A HALF DAY. INTERPRETERS WHO ARE NOT CERTIFIED EARN ABOUT \$165 FOR A DAY AND \$105 FOR A HALF DAY.

The Sampan
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AACA NEWS

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Learning Construction Pays

By Bruce Macbain

Did you know that a union electrician can earn \$50 to \$60 thousand a year? And the same thing is true for many of the other building trades — carpenters, plumbers, sheet metal workers, floor-coverers.

Of course, before you can make that kind of money you need go through a union apprentice-training program, which typically lasts four to five years. Unlike other training programs, however, with these you can earn while you learn. You get to work a real job in the trade while you take classes in the evening. A first year apprentice's hourly pay starts at about half that of a journeyman (a fully qualified worker) and then rises every year.

In the past it was very difficult for someone on the outside to get into one of the building trades because membership was kept within families. But this is changing. Unions are now recruiting more minorities, immigrants, and women to do the job.

Although it is *easier* to get into a union than it used to be, it still isn't *easy*. Some unions have tests and all have interviews. For the recent immigrant, the biggest barrier, of course, is English. You need to know the vocabulary and idioms of the construction trade and you need to know how to write a resume, fill out an application, and have an interview.

The Asian American Civic Association has been including a program to help immigrants with the above The Work Readiness for Construction Jobs program has recently finished its second 8-week cycle.

The class teaches English, math, and interviewing skills; gives an overview of all the different building trades; conducts tours of construction sites; and takes students to union halls to learn more about each trade and to fill out applications for apprenticeship programs.

So far, two of our graduates have been accepted as apprentices in the floor-coverers union and others have recently had interviews with the electrical workers for training in telecommunications. Also, the CorJen Construction Co. has interviewed four of our graduates for construction jobs scheduled to begin this summer on the new Cross Town Project.

The Work Readiness class is currently taking a break but we expect to start again in the Fall. (For more call (617) 426-9492)

AACA ESL LESSON

By Judy Przybek, AACA Director of Education and former ESL teacher

Using the verb "to be" with adjectives.

Many times a non-native speaker will translate a sentence word-for-word from their native language. This strategy doesn't always work because different languages use different word orders and sentence structures.

For example, the verb "to be" when used with adjectives such as "happy," "sad," and "quiet" doesn't translate word-for-word accurately. In Chinese, people don't use the verb "to be" with such adjectives. In Chinese, it is correct to say "I happy" and "She sad."

In English, however, you must use the verb "to be" and say "I am happy," and "She is sad." So, Chinese should remember to use the following structure:

Subject + verb "to be" + adjective

For Example:

I (subject) am ("to be" verb construction) happy (adjective)!

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C A L E N D A R

ANTHONY NEOH, CHIEF ADVISOR OF THE CHINA SECURITY REGULATORY COMMISSION (CSRC), WILL SPEAK AT THE ASIAN AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION ON **MAY 6, NOON-1 P.M.** THE TOPIC: "CHINA, THE NEXT TEN YEARS." FREE, BUT CALL AACA AT (617) 426-9492. PICTURED ON RIGHT.



Anthony Neoh

THE CHINATOWN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING IS **MAY 20 AT 6 P.M.** AT 125 HARRISON AVE.

THE CHINATOWN SAFETY MEETING IS **MAY 1 AT 10:30 A.M.** AT THE DOUBLETREE HOTEL CONFERENCE ROOM AT 821 WASHINGTON



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SAMPAN INTERVIEW: 15 Minutes With Robert Reich

By Adam Smith

SAMPAN recently interviewed Robert Reich, a Democrat who is running for Massachusetts governor. Reich is the founder and national editor of "The American Prospect"; he is a university professor and the Maurice B. Hexter Professor of Social and Economic Policy at Brandeis University and its Heller Graduate School, and he served as the United States Secretary of Labor during President Clinton's first term. Here's what we found out about Reich.

SAMPAN: What do you think about the state's bilingual education program?

REICH: I think that the bilingual education program is a good program. I don't want to see it cut back. I'm concerned about cuts in budgets. I'm also very concerned about a proposed ballot initiative that would require English immersion for students who do not speak English at home. I think that students learn in different ways. Some students can benefit from English immersion. Other students need a transitional bilingual program. Other students do better in a program in which non-English speaking and English speaking students are mixed in the same class-

room. We need to leave it up to parents and schools to decide what is the best fit.

SAMPAN: What do you think about Adult Basic Education? In November and December there were some proposed budget cuts that would have cut ABE.

REICH: I'm against those cuts, and I'm a very strong proponent of Adult Basic Education. It is very, very important for many of our citizens here who are going to be productive in the future and get good jobs. There are waiting lists already... for Adult Basic Education and for English as a Second Language courses. And that's unacceptable. We can't cut Adult Basic Education. We should be doing the opposite and provide more funding for Adult Basic Education and for



English as a Second Language.

SAMPAN: What do you think about the fact that the money the courts are able to use to pay for interpreters is running out?

REICH: A big problem. The courts have been getting funding not for what is needed but for what is not needed. The courts have asked for funding, but the Legislature appears to be funding different positions from what the court is requesting. And that has led to a misallocation of resources. We need interpreters in courts. In our

courts, without interpreters, some people are not getting justice. If you can't understand what is being said in court, and you are a defendant or a plaintiff, you are not receiving adequate justice.

SAMPAN: Homelessness is a big problem in Boston. What do you think the state should do to handle this problem?

REICH: There are many steps that can be taken. First the Housing Bond Bill has to be reported out the Legislature and signed by the Governor. I would sign it in a minute. That bill would provide additional funding for low-income housing and maintenance. We have got to simplify and streamline our building codes to lower the costs of development. We have got to encourage all of our towns and cities to come up to the Section 40B requirement, which would require that at least 10 percent of the housing stock be affordable. We, the state, should require what I call 'good neighbor bonuses' to cities and towns that are up to that 10 percent requirement. We should use abandoned state property, such as old mental hospitals, and create centers for developers to come in and use that property for moderate and low income housing. Many of our colleges and universities should be encouraged to build dormitories and get students out of moderate income rental housing so that moderate income rental housing will become available to families who need it.

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER: HOW IT WORKS:

SCHOOL-TO-CAREER is a program that aims to give high school students real job experience while giving employers employees. Here's some info on how the program works and how you can get involved:

THE BASICS

With School-to-Career, participating businesses and employers hire high school students. The idea is that the students will learn the skills and trades they need to know on the job, while they get work done for their employers. In some cases, the Boston Public School System even works to prepare students for jobs. Some students will even take special courses to prepare them.

THE BENEFITS FOR KIDS

Kids will develop skills for college and future careers. They will be able to use what they have learned in class in a real world setting. They will learn work ethic.

Ideally, the School-to-Career job opportunities include helping a nurse screen patients for heart disease, helping a high-tech company refurbish computers, creating displays for florists, making appointments and greeting customers at a beauty salon, handling customer requests at a supply store, planning conferences and meetings for a non-profit organization, creating and translating pamphlets and brochures or giving tours at historic sites.

THE BENEFITS FOR THE EMPLOYERS

Besides getting work done, Employers will also benefit from having a skilled workforce, increased productivity, saving on recruitment and training costs, strengthening community ties, and just by helping the students.

One question employers may have is: How will I get students best suited for my business?

The answer is that School-to-Career educational and career specialists will help match employers with interested students who meet specific needs. Hiring is based on reviewing resumes, applications, and interviews. Also, all students are prepared in job readiness skills workshops.

Another thing to keep in mind is that School-to-Career will provide support to the students and employers.

How much should employers pay? That's up to the employer.

And employers don't have to just employ students to get involved in the program. They can provide internships, donate equipment, host field trips, give presentations or provide mentoring.

THE HISTORY

Since 1994, Boston's School-to-Career initiative has been in place. In 1998, a team of five local partners received a U.S. Department of Opportunities Grant to increase School-to-Career involvement among students living or attending schools in Boston's Empowerment Zone, which

includes parts of Chinatown, the South End, Roxbury and Dorchester.

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CHINA, COREA, JAPAN, SINGAPORE AND VIETNAM share a Confucian tradition. Each country has its own Confucian history that is uniquely adapted to local needs and native sentiments. Confucius was born around 2500 years ago in China, from where his ideas spread at different times in two and a half millenniums. Wherever Confucianism settled, the local culture experienced social change.

Early in his teaching career Confucius was prone to wander from country to country, searching for wealthy students and royal patrons. As early as 213 B.C., in various kingdoms of "China," Confucian practices were banned and the classic texts were burned. There were similar reactions in the other Asian countries. Consequently every hundred years, new improvements of Confucianism kept appearing. The new form got better and more adaptable for they drew from at least five national interpretations claiming to be original Confucian thoughts, ideals, and practices.

All five Asian countries above however have in common one lasting Confucian cultural heritage. The intellectual culture of each country evidenced the original Confucian value where knowledge - chih or to know - is esteemed as the pre-eminent intellectual property of the people.

Thoughts and ideas are considered the essence of a civil society. Right and wrong is understood through knowing. Only when a people have knowledge, or "know human affairs," then reason, justice, dignity, peace and prosperity can be enjoyed, said Confucius. Otherwise people are no better than pigs and dogs he said. The Confucian principle on public service as a basic social goal promoted knowing by consistently making all spoken, written and printed knowledge a public property.

The East Asian value equating the spoken word with gold came from the same expectation on thoughts and ideas as intellectual property for a common good. Private thoughts are considered public the moment they are spoken. Speech used well is meant to bring goodwill for all. When one person misuses the spoken word, it is considered harmful to everyone.

On writing: an ability to write in the old days was a prestige of scholarly cultural privileges. Those were the days when ink, paper, and brush could not be bought with a credit card by one swift click. The educational privileges of Confucian scholarship stressed the ability to express oneself fluently in writing, as in the leisure art of poetry. Education was called "to have learning about literature" or "to know words" with the skill to craft one's knowing in writing. The discipline of the mind through learning and then writing was treated as a lifelong training to deliver beneficial public information. The educated Confucian wrote profusely and shared writing publicly. Critiques were welcomed as a medium for improvement, and public debate enlivened society. Written self-expression, as in the creative art of calligraphy, was highly esteemed by both the literate and the illiterate public. Books - rolled into scrolls or hand sewed in bounded pages - were carefully stored as precious property to refine the mind. Within walled courtyards of Asian literati, for book storage, study, and contemplation, the library built into a quiet corner was an essential room in a respectable family. All five Confucian countries inherited this high regard for the written words.

This high regard for written words was transferred to printed books

after the invention of printing in "China." Books and the press were ancient sources of early Asian cultural revolutions that imprinted on the people's mind habitual patterns to burn books, to control literacy, and to struggle with printed materials. Before books were printed, there were handwritten copies. Bookmaking using string for binding came about after the invention of paper. Paper is popularly thought of as a Chinese invention. That is way off the ethnic mark.

Geographically about 1900 years ago, that part of southwestern "China" where paper was first invented is not China proper as we know it today. There once was a separate and prosperous nation named Nan Chao in that region. The brown skinned and good looking natives were related racially with the Tibetan and they called themselves by many tribal names. Gradually, some people from Nan Chao were absorbed into the Han nation and became Chinese; some people moved south and built today's Southeast Asian nations. Nan Chao the nation disappeared. Their people's contribution to Asian civilization were claimed by "China" and officially expunged by Southeast Asians.

Nan Chao's chief trade was paper making. When Buddhism arrived in the region from Nepal through India, the paper trade promoted the circulation of Buddhist doctrine and prayer through books hand copied by scholarly scribes. Today around Yun-nan province, Myanmar, Thailand and Laos there still are families who inherited the paper making trade that produces old-fashioned papers made by hand pounding wet tree bark into dried thin sheets.

The Buddhist legacy gave a divine attribute to books because the books during and after the Nan Chao reign were mostly religious. That added a sacred dimension to the East Asian care and esteem for the printed words. Books as a repository of mundane and spiritual knowledge received a larger emotional appeal and were treated respectfully as cultural gifts. Rules were made as to the placing of books at heights above waist level, to not sit or stomp on printed letters, and to bow or show obeisance to a book before its cover is flipped open for reading. These cultured behaviors on handling books became an educated person's repertoire of social refinement.

Buddhism complemented and enlarged the Confucian intellectual culture with its central principle on nyanna - the mind or the intellect - as the primal force of all earthly activities, good and evil. The mind, according to Buddhists, is the cause of all human pain and bliss. Learning as the way to tame the mind is both a Confucian and a Buddhist tenet. By understanding one's mind, in other words by using one's intelligence constructively, a person finds happiness along with the freedom from suffering.

The combined Confucian value on knowledge as a universal property and Buddhist belief on global intelligence as the controlling force of human destiny has been for 2000 years a powerful influence on basic Asian cultural values for education, personal liberty, free speech, and a free press.

With the advent of the Internet Age, Asians worldwide are finding themselves at worship in front of this ancient altar that elevates knowledge and intelligence. From today's cyber world, real cultural struggles continue to strive for a freedom of the mind to soar on the Information Highway.

INTERNET REVOLUTION

IN THE UNITED STATES, 70% of Asian American households are plugged into the World Wide Web. According to the ethnic breakdown published earlier this year by Insight Research, 35% of African American, 45% of White, and 48% of Latino American are online. To be a majority of Asian identified Americans online adds-up to an enormous virtual impact. The real impact is under cautious study. How all this will affect a culture and an economy, particularly e-business and e-commerce, is closely watched. The dust will settle when the stratospheric rise of the dot com economy is sorted out in courts, at homes, and at the bazaar.

It is safe to say that a large Asian labor and investor pools in the Internet technology is consistent with Asian intellectual culture. History shows that the social problem and cultural progress brought about by the Internet is not that different from the days when the bound-ed books and the printing press were invented. Cherished traditions get repackaged and appear in different forms that seem new. Way back, a nation such as Nan Chao not only disappeared from the map but their cultural contributions were totally erased from human memory. It reminds authorities why the absence of national border on the Web is politically scary. As before, the ways people live their lives change but the people have not really changed.

The Internet has eliminated geographic distance and cultural boundaries for Asians around the world. The constructive uses of knowledge and intelligence have created a larger pool of youthful and Asian millionaires in Massachusetts, California, Washington and Texas. These are like miracles that dazzle the mind. They affect standard wisdom and established custom of every nation. Besides being felt in businesses and public institutions, the enormity of real cultural impact is being felt in Asian homes.

In a Boston suburb of expensive homes a few years back, the local police arrested a Chinese man and charged him for assaulting his daughter. One evening, this Chinese family had a big fight because the daughter, age 19, was leaving for Los Angeles to rendezvous with a Chinese boy she met online. Boy and girl had chatted online, exchanged self photos, corresponded through e-mail, and were emotionally ready to meet in the flesh. The parents, not knowing what was typed in English and thinking the girl's dedication at the computer was because she was smart, were in the dark about their daughter's virtual romance until that moment when she was packed and ready to leave for Logan airport. They learned that she had paid for her own plane fare. Mother was shocked, speechless. Father went into shame and rage. The Father slapped the daughter. She called the police.

Similar kinds of legal, family, sexual, and cultural upheavals are reported in Asian countries. Despite Asia's lower living standard and family income compared to the US, the total number of Asian Internet surfers exceed the total population of the United States, according to polled results. That is not surprising since Korea, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong enjoyed a head start with online connections. Though India and China joined the group late, joint public and private capital investments instantly boosted their Internet capacity. The opinion among Asians in the know is that aggressive US government trans-Pacific

claims for legal rights to "Intellectual Property" slowed the American public presence on the Internet until the late 1990s.

After the US government led investments blew billions into the dot com financial bubble, a creative young mind who knew how to write thoughtful pro forma financial statements could virtually apply for millions from eager venture capitalists with generous government connections. Among the Confucian nations with an ancient entrepreneurial culture, pro forma financial projections are necessary investment knowledge. They are meant to be an informational guide. There was a time not long ago when the American financial institution promoting itself highly respectable and beyond reproachful speculation looked down on pro forma statements with an "as good as Chinese" attitude. As it is now, the financial crisis the world faces is influenced by widespread pro forma calculations being used as de facto transactions.

There appears to be more changes with standard practice and conventional thinking. There has been a great deal of press about another sexual revolution of the Internet Age. From college campuses, young students clicking in and out of chat rooms, courtship with a cut and paste technology, chatting through Instant Messages, keeping busy with upstairs and downstairs dormitory hookups, all these are expected to bring novel American romance and marriages. In China, the availability of 250 web sites for men who want sex with men across every metropolitan city is bringing back pre-liberation debates on sexual mores and family relationships. In Japan, though it is an open secret for the longest time, there are more strained cyber arguments about Japanese women who exclusively desire black men for recreational uses.

How tradition is known and understood may change, but as before people can be trusted to use Internet information most appropriate to each person's intelligence.

—Fred Chin

(NEXT ISSUE, SAMPAN WILL INCLUDE A LIST OF WEBSITES AS A FOLLOW UP TO THIS STORY)

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FILM REVIEW

"New Kids on the Block"

By Liang Qu

Imagination, curiosity and boundless dreams are what make a childhood complete. We expect punishment when we do something wrong, and comfort when we finally learn where we come from. The "New Kids on the Block" film screening, which is part of the Boston Asian American Film and Video Festival, tackles this childhood theme in four short works: "The Prescription" by Ham Tran; "Do Wok A Do" by Michelle Wong; "Nupur" by Aparna Malladi; and "Shoshin: In Your Dreams" by Melissa Kyu-Jung Lee. "New Kids" is sure to remind its audience of the hardships and rewards of growing up.

The film deals with the consequences of childhood curiosity. "The Prescription" follows a young boy's quest to run an errand for his severe father. He is to go to the herbalist and fetch his father's herbal package. However, one of the ingredients in the package sparked a bit of interest in the boy. One thing leads to another, and the contents of the package are lost to the wind, leaving the boy to the terror of facing the punishment that inevitably awaits him at home. "The Prescription" has an old fashioned feel, perhaps it is because of the unique film used in its production, or it could be because of the personalities and behaviors of the characters come across as being from another time. The film will connect with any viewer despite generation gaps. Children and parents will relate.

In accordance with the first presentation's son and father relationship, "Do Wok A Do" deals with a mother-daughter bond, as well as childhood imagination. Growing up in the small town of St. Paul. Joanne's life revolved around her family's restaurant, and extra-terrestrial contact. She has always taken her parents' happiness for granted, unquestionably as all children do, until one day her mother told a curious parable. "Do Wok A Do" is a parable, in itself, of escape. As much as we like to escape the confines of our own lives, our means to take flight can prove to be just as outlandish as those of a child's.

A vivid imagination, along with curiosity, is a timeless characteristic of children. This quality is greatly expressed in Aparna Malladi's "Nupur." The film tells of how a little girl, Nupur, went about exploring the contents of her ancestral home. Her insatiable curiosity gets her lost, as well as helps her find an unknown key to her past: the spirit of a past ancestor. Upon being found again, measures are taken to make sure the same will never happen again. Ankle bracelets and a marked path of small white footprints within the house prove not only to be an implement in guiding the girl around the house, but also in showing her the path of her culture and ancestors.

However, following the paths of ancestors may prove to be difficult, especially if you grew up in a society that stresses the importance of individuality and personal goals. As the conclusion to the selection of short films, Australian filmmaker, Melissa Kyu-Jung Lee's documentary, "Shoshin: In Your Dreams," discusses personal ambition and duty to family. The film documents interviews with many elderly Korean immigrants with broken or unfulfilled dreams due to the civil wars in their country. However these persons revived their own dreams with the births of their own children, hoping the children could achieve the own that they themselves never got the chance to. The director also narrates her own accounts of this living-vicariously-through-children phenomenon throughout the film.

"New Kids On the Block" provides a greater selection of childhood memories. It does not matter that the content of these shorts revolve around the Asian culture, audiences of all racial background will be able to enjoy and relate to the issues discussed. (Presented by the Asian American Resource Workshop and the MFA. Plays March 20, 1:30 p.m.)

Talking About Chinese With Raymond Chang, Author of "Speaking of Chinese"

By Adam Smith

If you surf through the Web pages of Amazon.com, looking to see what books you can find that were written by Raymond Chang, a chemistry professor at Williams College, you will find enough science texts to give you nightmares of the Periodic Table. But, if you scroll down far enough, you'll find a text by Chang, and his wife Margaret Scrogin Chang, that is science free: "Speaking of Chinese."

The book, which the Changs recently revised, is a 179-page lesson on everything you'd learn about Chinese if you were to learn Chinese -- except the ability to speak and read the language. It discusses Chinese characters, Chinese history, Chinese culture, the value Chinese place on their calligraphy and the uncertain future of the 3,000-year-old language. It also tells how Chinese culture is reflected in its language and how Chinese works, grammatically, in comparison to other languages.

Most intriguing about the book is that the Changs ask where will the Chinese language's usage will evolve to. They argue that with China's struggle to become more and more technologically advanced, the language's usage is changing. The thousands of thousand-year-old characters work best when handwritten, not when collected in a phone book or used to communicate via computers: There's no alphabetical order to the thousands characters, they are not phonetic like English's 27 letters are, and the same characters can represent different words.

Sampan recently interviewed Raymond Chang, to find out about his co-writing of the book and his views on the future of the language.

Sampan: What's your background?

Chang: I was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Shanghai. I was there during the Japanese occupation during the Second World War. I (later) went to London and then to the United States to attend graduate school. Margaret (my wife who co-wrote the book) is a native of California.

Sampan: Why did you two decide to write the book?

Chang: When I came to Williams College in the late 1960s there was no Chinese language department. So, during the college's Winter

Studies session, I volunteered to teach Chinese language and calligraphy. It was very popular. Then my wife, who is a writer, and I started talking about it. We said: why not write an introduction to the language. The first edition came out in 1978. Then we revised it recently because the Romanization of Chinese is now Pinyin and because (we wanted to discuss) the impact that word processing is having on the language.

Sampan: In your book, you say that the writing of the Chinese word "Jian," which means adultery, reflects sexism in Chinese culture because it only applies to men who commit adultery, not women. (The character is made up of three of the same characters, each meaning woman.) You say there is no such character for a woman who commits adultery. Will talk about that?

Chang: We just put that in there as a little joke. But there are other examples of male dominance (that are reflected in the language). For instance, if you are introducing your wife in Chinese you say literally, "this is my inside person," meaning that she stays inside. If a wife introduces her husband, it's "this is my outside person." I'm sure these are no longer used in China. The usage is now different.

Sampan: You say that with the popularity of computers and e-mail, soon there maybe a generation of Chinese who can read but not write Chinese characters. You say this will happen and is happening because when typing characters on a computer, the typist needs to type the sound of the word and then select the desired character from a menu of characters containing the same, or a similar, pronunciation. You say that this means computer-using Chinese will be able to read, but not write characters from scratch. How soon do you think this will happen?

Chang: It will take some years to really show its effect. Think of American kids - they write some sentences into a computer and then press a button to check the spelling and the computer recognizes the misspelled words. For Chinese this is much worse. Calligraphy is no longer compulsory in school. Chinese type in the sound of the word using Pinyin and then they get a choice of characters. This is much worse than not knowing how to spell correctly. ...But, if you don't do this, you can't play the game. You can't use e-mail or computers.

Sampan: In your book you say that the Chinese use the word "ma" at the end question sentence. And you say that for some time, a question mark has been redundantly tacked onto the end of those sentences, though they end in "ma." Tell us more about punctuation in Chinese.

Chang: We don't have things like colons or semicolons. Our punctuation is not anywhere as extensive as in the English language.

Sampan: At the end of your book, you talk about the future of written Chinese. You say that to advance technologically, Chinese language usage will need to change. But you say that the changes in the language that are needed could mean "throwing away a treasure that can never be regained." Can you discuss what you mean by that?

Chang: China is forced to modernize with the modern world. Using the Pinyin Romanization makes Chinese forget how to write a character. It makes Chinese lose touch with the language. The language just becomes a tool for communicating. Once it's gone you can never recover it. It will just become the domain of scholars. The Chinese language is changing it's character. No pun intended.

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MEETING NOTICE BOSTON CONNECTS, INC.

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April 23, 2002 at 6pm.

The meeting will be held at 2201 Washington Street in Dudley Square. The agenda will include program investments.

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聖公會波士頓華人教會招生

兒童暑假學校 (波士頓)

日期: 2002年6月24日至8月23日
時間: 逢星期一至五9:00am至5pm
年齡: 1至8年級 (2002年9月計算)
內容: 學科練習 (中, 英, 數)
聖經, 讀書技巧, 游泳, 球類, 電影, 參觀, 旅行
費用: 每週 \$70 (可申請減費)

兒童中文學校

日期: 2002年5月5日 (主日) 逢星期日
時間: 上午11:00至下午2:00
年齡: 1至8年級
內容: 中文的講 (普通話), 寫 (繁/簡體) 和讀, 聖經故事, 益智活動, 茶點
費用: \$30 一期 (10週課程)

以上兩項課程地點: 聖公會波士頓華人教會
138 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116
近Park Street T站 (紅、綠線站)

兒童暑假學校 (昆士)

日期: 2002年6月24日至8月23日
時間: 逢星期一至五9:00am至5:30pm
年齡: 1至8年級 (2002年9月計算)
內容: 電腦活動, 學科練習 (中, 英, 數)
品格鍛煉, 讀書技巧, 游泳, 球類, 電影, 參觀, 旅行
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招証恩居士

每年都有九顆星曜降臨在一個位置處, 九顆星曜降臨的位置年年都不同, 九個星曜都有五行所屬, 有吉星也有凶星, 吉星善加以利用, 凶星要遠離。

今年排第四號的吉星叫做「四祿」文昌星, 該吉星今年降臨在西南方坤宮, 再加上今年的西南方又有很多吉星拱照, 所以, 今年的西南方是最當旺的方位。

如果, 你的辦公樓及收銀檯擺放在西南方, 對你的事業及財運會有很大的幫助, 兒女溫習功課, 將書檯擺放在西南來讀書, 你的兒女一定文章顯達, 青雲得路, 聲名遠播, 名列前茅, 考試第一。

在這馬年的新年期間, 來我處看流年的人就絡繹不絕, 就此恭祝各位龍馬精神, 心想事成, 一年之際在於春, 一

日之際在於晨, 一家之際在於和, 一生之際在於勤。我順便借助舢舨雙週報少許篇幅來教各位在家中客廳、商店、餐館、辦公室, 放一瓶「城門水」一個月內見效, 我敢保證一定財源滾滾來, 但要知道出入大門開在什麼方位來決定放城門水位置。

現在我舉例說明: 假如你的居屋、商店、餐館、辦公室的出入大門開在西南方坤宮, 我第一時間就首先恭喜你, 你就要在西方酉宮用一個不大不小的開口玻璃瓶裝水八分滿, 放在西方酉宮, 第一次放水要選擇一個吉時吉日來放水, 水要一兩日換一次水, 仍何時間可以放水, 更不需去選擇吉日了。

笑話一則: 名片

一個財務專業顧問收到新印的名片後, 氣急敗壞地打電話向影印廠抗議。
「你們搞什麼鬼? 我的名片印成『專業顧門』, 少了一個口啦!」
「對不起對不起, 我們馬上幫您重印!」

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人往高處怎麼走？

你是否覺得現在的工作刻板乏味、缺乏挑戰和晉升機會？你是否心心念念想著要去投身于你夢寐以求的事業？欲覓理想職位，怎樣才能穩操勝算？以下是過來人和人力資源專家的意見。

有得放矢

有些人深思熟慮才換工作，這種人通常較有決心，也清楚自己的目標。可用以下方法幫助自己選定目標：

· 弄清楚想換工作是因為性格不合還是環境因素還是人事問題。

· 什麼工作都會有壓力，有時我們必須學會應付、適應環境，不妨留在現在工作崗位觀察一段時間，看它到底是否適合你。如決意轉業，可考慮與本行相關的工作，如：船務辦公員可干推銷商，地產公司秘書可考慮作經紀人。

· 抱樂觀積極態度，掌握自己的前途。四十多歲的家庭主婦瑞安因孩子已長大，決心重返社會工作。她當了差不多一年的店員，但心中的盼望是當文員，於是在兩年前去進修了辦公室助理和電腦課程，畢業後獲聘辦公室助理。“以前一直擔心重新就業會很困難，根本沒勇氣去找白領職位，現在做了半年，覺得自己適應新環境倒很順利。”

· 將興趣變為職業。三十九歲的施太太原是公司行政人員，她說：“我在商界工作十多年，非常厭倦。後來我接觸到主張過簡朴生活的綠色主義，極感興趣，慢慢地更愛上了園藝。”于是她放棄高薪，轉到一個環保團體工作。她還租了片耕地，每周種一兩天，自得其樂。五年前，她終將興趣變成職位，成為綠色田園基金會的教育主任。

· 尋求職業介紹及輔導服務。不少職業介紹所和人事顧問公司能提供最新的人力市場情報和職位空缺資料。一些大規模職業介紹所更向求職者提供能力評估測試，幫助求職者了解自己的能力。

· 搜集資料。職業介紹顧問公司行政重

· 多看與心目中理想職業有關的書籍。如果你打算選讀工商管理這門課程來加強換工作的條件，你得了解這門課程的內容，也要留意這個學位能否令未來雇主對你刮目相看。”

· 選擇有長遠發展潛力的職業。“應該選擇正在擴展的公司，因為在那里較多學習和晉升的機會，有助於你將來另謀更好的工作。”

小試牛刀

決定投身新工作之前，可找些機會以義務或兼職的形式試做該工作，看看你是否感興趣，可採取以下方法：

· 做義工。如果你有志做護士，可到醫院去當志願護理人員；想當播音員，不妨試試給盲人朗讀書報。

· 建立人際網絡。轉入新行業前，不妨多結識該行業人士，建立些人際關係，以此了解該行業的實際情況。

· 善用才能，發揮所長。有位專職報道法庭新聞的記者後來變成了大律師，他說，當記者時所涉獵的法律知識，對後來修讀法律幫助很大，“那時我差不多每晚都留在法院閱讀判詞，熟悉法庭用語。”

再次充電

不少轉業成功者都會放下穩定的工作，回大學去進修。如果為了生計而不能放棄日間工作，可嘗試修讀專為在職人士而設的夜校。讀書當然要付出時間、精力和金錢，但回報可觀。重返校園或許會遇到財務困難，以下提議可供參考：

· 申請獎學金或助學金。大學的校外進修課程和一般為在職人士而設的兼讀課程，一般都沒有政府資助，但再就業培訓局的許多全日制課程都是免費的，有的甚至可獲生活津貼。

· 重整財務，量入為出。戴爾放棄全職工作去修讀法律課程的四年里，由於無固定收入，便把房子賣掉換錢，並為報

刊寫稿賺取稿費，靠這些錢和家人給予的少許補貼過活。

攻心為上

即使你雄心勃勃，在轉換工作前亦需有以下心理準備：

· 預期收入會暫時減少。一般，辦公室文職人員轉換職業，薪酬往往稍微降低，但只要選擇得當，新工作有較大發展機會，薪酬遲早會回升并超越原來的水

平。

· 預期要面對激烈的競爭。接受再培訓後轉職的人，多半在工作上會遇到比以前更激烈的競爭，因此需要多學習人際關係技巧以應付挑戰。例如，一向在工廠工作的製造業工人轉入服務行業之後，必須學習與顧客溝通之道，以及與較年輕同事相處之道。

· 預期要應付壓力。轉職人士須懂得怎樣在新工作環境中為自己降低精神壓力。任何重大的生活轉變都會帶來精神壓

力。投身新行業，不但要改變生活習慣，還要面對新的人際關係和身份角色，難免會焦慮不安，對此，只有盡快弄清楚自己的工作範圍，和同事建立融洽的關係，以此為自己降壓。

· 勇於嘗試就必有所獲，即使新工作并非如想像般好，也無須灰心，因為至少你又獲得了一份寶貴的經驗，人生更豐富了。

明智從事

你如果有以下症狀，也許該考慮換工作了。

一、沉悶你覺得工作易如反掌，用流水作業方式就行了，根本不必動腦子。


二、星期天抑鬱症每個星期天都精神萎靡，情緒低落，因想到明日又要上班。

三、薪酬停滯你的薪水連年原地踏步。

四、三七定律你對30%或以上的任務感到厭惡。

五、不安于位盡管自知力不勝任，仍暗地里渴望擔任某個高職。

六、發現真理周圍人都說你應該改行，你自己也開始認為他們有道理。




CITY OF BOSTON - THOMAS M. MENINO, MAYOR

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16 Cunningham Street

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55 Wayland Street
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46 Dewey Street

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- 2,3,4臥房
- 1,1.5,2衛生間
- 起居室
- 餐廳
- 廚房有垃圾處理，
- 冰箱，爐具
- 洗衣機接口
- 完全隔音
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- 新建築
- 3臥房
- 1.5衛生間
- 起居室
- 餐廳
- 廚房有冰箱，爐具
- 洗衣機接口
- 完全隔音
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關於售房的基本繳稅規定是這麼說的：如果房屋所有人在過去五年中有兩年自己住在那裡，在出售該房屋時，若納稅人是單身，那麼售房利潤在二十五萬美元以內的可以免稅；若納稅人已婚，則售房利潤在五十萬美元以內可以免稅。

此外，所謂的售房利潤包括納稅人此前每一次售出房屋時獲得的累積利潤。為什麼呢？因為老的稅法規定，如果納稅人將售房利潤用來購買新房，那麼售房利潤可以免稅。而大多數人也正是這麼做的。

因此，在按新稅法計算售房利潤時，必須將從前免稅的售房利潤併入當前售房的利潤之中。例如：某人在過去二十年中共擁有過三棟住宅，每棟住宅在此人擁有期間的增值額都為十萬美元，且每次售房利潤都轉入了購買新房的成本。假設此人為單身，那麼他（她）必須為超過部分的五萬美元售房利潤按照長期資本利得稅率（很可能是20%）繳稅。如果此人已婚，且採取夫妻合併申報方式，由於售房利潤尚未超過五十萬美元的界限，因此仍然不用繳稅。

如果仍有疑問，可以參看國稅局網站上的國稅局公告523（IRS Publication 523），裡面列出了如何計算房屋應稅成本。本報將列出如何計算房屋應稅成本。如果納稅人將從前的售房利潤用於購買新房，那就必須找出售房當年的申報書，在2119表格上查出納稅人目前居住房屋的成本基數（包括轉入新購成本中的前次售房利潤數字）。當年的成本基數加上後來的維修費用，即為當前房屋的成本基數。免稅的其它條件。

弄清售房利潤問題之後，接下來應該看納稅人是否符合可以免稅的其它條件。在賣掉房子的時候，如果納稅人過去五年中至少有兩年將這棟房屋作為主要住宅，則符合免稅條件。

如果納稅人不完全符合這些條件，有甚麼納稅優惠嗎？只要納稅人由於健康或工作原因搬家，仍可獲得部分扣除。規定大致如下：例如某納稅人六個月前搬入一新居，由於某種原因，納稅人所服務的公司需要搬遷，納稅人也同意隨公司遷往新址。因此，納稅人將房屋售出，售房利潤為25萬美元。由於納稅人在此房屋中居住了六個月，佔國稅局規定最低期限兩年的四分之一，因此納稅人可獲得五十萬美元的四分之一扣除，即十二萬五千美元。此例中納稅人的售房利潤只有十萬美元，低於十二萬五千美元的免稅限額，因此不用繳稅。此外，即使納稅人從前售房利潤曾經用於購買現房，在出售現房時也仍然可以申報此項扣除。

折舊問題

如果納稅人的住宅是租用的，或擁有所謂的「家庭辦公室」情況就複雜多了。在這兩種情況下，納稅人都進行了相應的折舊扣除。因此，按照新稅法規定，一九九七年五月六日以後的折舊扣除必須繳稅。

例如，納稅人將住宅的25%作為「家庭辦公室」使用，假設售房利潤為十萬美元，由於「家庭辦公室」已經進行了扣除，因此售房利潤中屬於「家庭辦公室」的四分之一部分——此例中為二萬五千美元——必須繳稅。此外，「家庭辦公室」已經扣減意味著每年也同時扣除了折舊。假設此例中「家庭辦公室」的折舊累計為五萬美元。那麼二萬五千美元售房利潤的適用稅率為長期資本利得最高稅率20%，五千美元的適用稅率根據「unrecaptured Section 1250 gains」為25%，則此例中累計應繳稅金為六千二百五十美元。

不想支付這筆稅金？避稅途徑倒是有幾條：如果納稅人事先知道不久將搬家，那麼可以在兩年內不申報「家庭辦公室」扣除，則這部分就符合「五年中最短兩年居住時間」的免稅條件。售房時除了一九九七年五月六日以後的折舊費之外，所有低於限額的售房利潤都可以免稅。

死亡、離婚與結婚

當賣掉房子的原因是死亡、結婚和離婚時，納稅人應該更加謹慎，行動應該更加迅速。

如果納稅人配偶不幸死亡，則當年納稅人仍然可以採取夫妻合併申報的方式，也就是說，如果售房利潤不超過五十萬美元時，納稅人可獲免稅。次年，可免稅的售房利潤便降為一半的二十五萬美元。如果納稅人繼承了屬於死亡配偶的房屋產權部分，那麼成本基數應該按配偶死亡日的市場價值計算。因此，納稅人的售房利潤可能不如想像的多。在新稅法之下，離婚也是非常複雜的問題。如果納稅人在離婚前售出房屋，且採取夫妻合併申報方式，則可免稅的售房利潤為五十萬美元。如果離婚後房屋產權歸納稅人一方，則可免稅的售房利潤為二十五萬美元。

離婚後夫妻雙方繼續共同持有房屋產權的情況也很常見。在這種情況下，不在此房屋中居住的納稅人最終將不滿足「五年中最短兩年居住時間」的條件。因此，當這類房屋售出時，只有常住在此房屋中的納稅人能夠參照二十五萬美元的免稅規定。有一個解決辦法，可在離婚書中明確規定離婚配偶中的一方繼續在此住宅中居住一定年數，或直到孩子達到一定年紀。離婚書中註明此條件可以使遷出此屋的配偶享受扣除，並同樣適用於二十五萬美元的售房利潤免稅規定。

如果新婚夫妻雙方各擁有自己的房屋，即使他們合併申報，各自的免稅限額只能各為二十五萬美元。但如果夫妻其中一方在出售房屋時利潤較高，那麼可以將此部分利潤用來購買雙方共同居住至少兩年的新房。

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中華公所緊急會議 陳主席公布新的選舉規則

中華公所於四月十六日(週二)晚舉行臨時緊急會議，宣讀公布新的中華公所職員選舉規則。中華公所主席陳志航表示，「會議不討論任何問題，不作任何決議」，會議共有四十人參加。陳主席接著表示，「由司法部及中華公所需律師研擬此選舉規則，以英文本為準」。(以下為中華公所提供的中譯內容)

一、本規則適用於包括特別選舉在內的所有紐英崙中華公所職員的選舉。所謂特別選舉，是指當職員任期少於兩年到期時。

二、紐英崙中華公所(以下稱本公所)設主席、中文書記、英文書記、財政及核數各一名，任期兩年，在其任期內，所有當選職員均為董事會成員，除經特別選舉外，所有正當當選職員均應在雙數年的元月一日履職，任期到下一年的十二月三十一日為止，經特別選舉當選的職員應在當選翌日上任，如當選在單數年，其任期至該年的十二月三十一日為止，如果當選在雙數年，其任期至下一年的十二月三十一日為止，包括特別選舉在內的所有職員的任期可延至至新當選合格職員就職為止，但任何人均不得連任兩屆。

三、所有被推薦的候選人及其推薦團體均不得拖欠會費，並已繳清最近三年的會費，否則其候選人資格無效，亦不能擔任任何職位，依規定應繳交的會費一律以中文書記紀錄在案並以存入本公所銀行戶口為準。不按規定繳交會費者，不但無推薦候選人的權利，也無選舉權和在公所會議上的表決權，並喪失其會員資格，本公所中文書記和英文書記必需為麻州居民，財政則必需在上任六十天內出具擔保，任何連續三次缺席議員是否稱職應由董事局決定，任何職員不得參與決定其自身的投票。任何職員稱職與否及職位的空缺應由董事局半數以上成員決定，職位空缺一經決定，即應通過特別選舉加以補充，同時現任職員應任職的新任職員到任為止。

四、本公所職員候選人可由本公所有效團體會員推薦，凡在該選舉舉行之前無被開除會籍或停止會籍者，並已繳清會費，符合上述第三條規定者為有效會員，有效會員得派出代表參加投票和推薦候選人，任何團體和姓氏會員均不得有兩人以上當選，只取其中獲票最高的兩位任職，任何團體推薦候選人必需保證該候選人接受提名，遵守本選舉規則，在當選後盡守職守，從而獲得董事局認可。

五、本公所選舉屬間接選舉，由各團體指派代表投票選舉，凡符合上述第三條和第四條的有效團體均可指派其選舉代表，該選舉代表也是該團體出席本公所會議的代表，選舉代表的指派必需以書面出具並加蓋公證，此項公證書必需提交給中文秘書紀錄在案，並在本公所辦公室內公布，選舉代表的改換必需以公證文件，並至少在正常選舉前九十天或特別選舉前三十天提出，否則視為無效，並仍以其原代表為其團體的代表，本公所董事局若發現其指派代表有破壞本公所活動，違背本公所利益之行為，可在三十天之內用書面形式向該團體會員投訴，同時把該投訴副本提交給本公所中文秘書備案，如果本公所和團體會員在改換代表問題上不能取得一致意見，而且該團體會員沒有指派合格新代表，原指定代表無權還是有權代表該團體參加本公所會議，以及有無權力投票選舉，本公所董事局有最後決定權，不服者可向選舉小組投訴，除非公所議員大會另有決定，選舉小組有權在選舉前至少十天內作出裁決，選舉前五天，中文書記應公布該次選舉的合法選舉人名單，任何未列於該名單的個人均無權投票選舉。

六、每次選舉日期的擇定由公所議員大會決定，選舉小組的主席和成員也在公所議員大會上選出，選舉小組的工作職責有本公所的法律顧問執行，如果條件許可，正常選舉應在選舉前至少九十天內決定，特別選舉應以三十天為準。

七、在選舉當天，選舉有本公所主席主持，中文書記和行政主任協助主席執行其工作職責，選舉小組和公所法律顧問負責監督全部選舉過程，在公布選舉結果前，除上述人員以外，任何人不得進入投票處活動，或翻動文件，開箱驗票要在選舉小組和公所法律顧問監督下執行，主席有權查詢選舉人的身份證明，駕駛執照或者護照以及其他政府允許的文件皆可視為有效身份證明，被主席小組作出最終決定，對於名列合法選舉人名單，並具有主席和選舉小組認可的有效身份證明的個人，仍何人無權就其選舉資格進行質疑。

八、合法選舉人必需親自投票，任何團體會員或合法選舉人不得臨時委託他人代為投票，選舉以無記名投票方式進行。投票人應依選舉規定圈選候選人，不得在選票上書寫任何姓名或字句符號，也不得塗改，否則視為廢票，每科職員只限圈選一名，圈選一課職員超過一名的選票視為廢票。

九、選舉代表投票以後應立即離開投票現場，除投票人和本規則第七條規定的人員外，在全部的選舉過程中，直到選舉結束，其他人等不得在選舉現場妨礙選舉，在選舉現場以及現場外三百英尺以內仍何人不得從事競選活動。

十、投票結束以後，在主席的指導監督下開箱計票，計票結果應立即當眾宣布，並將票數核明，記錄備案，候選人中以貨票最高者為勝，如果相同職位有兩位候選人獲得相同數目的選票，以先開者為勝選。如果任何團體會員或姓氏會員中出現兩人以上當選，其中獲票最高的兩位候選人勝選有效，其他人選無效，在這種情況下，票數僅次於該無效當選人的候選人為該科職員的勝選者。

十一、選舉結果宣布以後，所有選票應予公開核審，核審過程中，參與核審的人員不得使用任何書寫工具，如對選舉結果有仍何爭議必需在選舉結果宣布以後馬上向由選舉小組和公所主席，中文書記、生政主任以及法律顧問組成的終審委員會投訴，任何選舉爭議以終審委員會所作決議為最終裁決，任何團體和個人必需服從，不得藉故公開攻擊，或提出任何法律訴訟，否則處以停止會籍或開除資格的處分。

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當心老年急腹症

老年急腹症的特點：老年病人敏感性差，來勢凶、體征不典型；同時患多種疾病；并發症多；用藥困難。

每個人都會有腹痛的經歷，比如受涼後胃腸痙攣，進食不潔後急性胃炎，不潔飲食引起的急性腸炎這些腹痛可用阿托品止痛藥物，有時適當控制飲食即止痛，來勢凶猛、腹痛劇烈，常伴有嘔吐、排便異常、發熱、血壓下降等。體檢時腹肌緊張，常有反跳痛，大部分要靠手術治療。臨床上將急性闌尾炎、急性胰腺炎、腸梗阻、急性膽道疾病、胃腸穿孔、急性腹膜炎、宫外孕、老年人腸道缺血性病變等納入急腹症的範疇。

老年急腹症有什么特點呢？

一、老年病人敏感性差：隨著年齡的增長，神經細胞內的核染色質減少，甚至部分核仁消失，神經細胞內出現被稱為「衰老色素」的脂褐素顆粒，占據了神經細胞內的容積，影響到神經細胞的功能。隨著腦回縮小，腦溝擴大，大腦重量相應減輕，使神經細

胞的興奮性顯著降低，觸覺、溫度覺、震動覺

衰竭外，還有神經、內分泌、免疫、网状內皮系統、血液、代謝系統、消化系統的功能衰竭，各系統之間盤根錯節、相互影響，有時像瀑布樣發展，一發而不可收拾。

五、用藥困難：急腹症病人常有吐瀉等症狀，使電解質水分丟失，高熱又使水分蒸發，脫水常較嚴重，理應快速大量補液，但常伴有心肺功能不全，使補液速度受到限制；急腹症時常要使用多種抗生素，廣譜抗生素常引起菌群失調；腎臟功能不全可造成藥物毒性積蓄，使腎功能進一步惡化；老年人胃液分泌功能下降，鹽酸分泌減少，胃腸蠕動減弱，藥物容易對胃腸刺激，引起出血。

老年急腹症的處理應注意：及早就醫；重視症狀、體征與病理改變不相符合這個臨床特點，作認真細緻的檢查；思前顧後，小心用藥；老年急腹症大多需手術治療，當然手術有風險，但不手術將坐失良機，因此應如實地向家屬交待利弊，讓家屬與醫生在相互理解的基礎上共同分擔手術的風險，果斷決策，以贏得手術成功的時間。

衛生保健專欄 歡迎醫療教育 團體投稿

現在的情況不同了，營建業開始積極招募少數族裔、新移民和女性加入這個工作領域。

雖然對新移民或少數族裔而言，要

華美福利會營建工人培訓班 課程完整助你找工作更容易

你可知道一個接管機械工人一年的薪資是五萬到六萬嗎？事實上，其他的營建工人例如木匠、水管工人、金屬焊接工人及鋪地板工人的薪資也是如此。當然，你要進入這些行業之前，你必須需要經歷一個長達四至五年的營建訓練課程。和其他訓練課程不同的地方是，你在接受營建訓練課程的同時，你可以同時賺取錢。

以前，營建業（在此指指手工方面的營建領域）不是一個容易進去的的工作領域，總是被某些家族所壟斷。但是

進入營建業較以往容易，但也需要一些挑戰。有些營建領域有檢定考試，而所有的營建領域都要面試。對最近才來美國的新移民最大的困難就是，英語，你必須要知道營建業專用的詞匯才知道如何去寫你的履歷表、申請表和通過面試。

最近畢業的學生也陸續在接獲聘才面試。有一班有二個學生拿到地板陳設公司的聘書，其他

Association)開設了相關的課程幫助新移民克服這些困難。而且最近才有一個班級完成為期八週的訓練課程。華美福利會的營建訓練課程包括英語、數學、面試技巧及所有營建領域的蓋

括介紹，並帶領學生親自到工作場合實際學習。

致波士頓華埠社區

此公開函件，乃本人回應「保衛華埠運動(Campaign To Protect Chinatown)」於本年三月十九日致函波士頓重建局局長Mark Maloney而寫。

首先，讓本人解釋。由本人在本年三月十八日所致給重建局局長Maloney先生之函件內容，實乃對該項嚴重毀壞行動一種情緒尚的反應。正如其他之物業擁有者一樣，本人初時感到一陣陣憤怒及挫折；而本人亦非常關心益石街(Essex Street)十九號附近之鄰居及物業之安全。

現在過後反省，本人認知基於當初一時衝動，將該次毀壞事件串連在自由廣場發展計劃方案上，根本是毫無事實證明，所以是完全不恰當。

尤其不幸者，本人所用字眼「城市恐怖份子(Urban Terrorists)」，乃一個極度差劣之用詞選擇，實在由於本人當時情緒激動，不能以理性思考所致。本人深知華埠社區也與本人一樣，對居民及物業之安全同表關注。

本人特此公開聲明，本年三月十五日所發生之毀壞事件，本人不相信與任何和自由廣場方案對話之社區人士、個人和團體，直接或間接有關聯。再者，本人確認該等人士及團體，從未及不會鼓吹暴力或惡意行動，作為提倡反對發展或其他有關華埠社區事宜。

本人藉此公函，有機會解釋及表達本人當初對三月十五日事件情緒化反應之遺憾。本人當會繼續與華埠居民及社區團體一起工作，發展自由廣場，務令華埠社區及波士頓市，兩相獲益。

由衷的Kevin Fitzgerald 謹啓
兩千零二年三月二十八日

國際學生選讀課程將受限

華爾街日報十六日報導，為維護國家機密與安全，美國政府可能禁止或限制外籍學生攻讀、研發與大規模殺傷性武器知識有關的一些學科。過去一、兩個月來，由國內安全局召集的一個跨機構工作小組正在研究這個計畫，以及有關國際學生簽證的其他議題，希望讓政府更能控制外籍學生。

控制與追蹤外籍學生已成政府反恐戰的一個主要項目。移民局上周宣布加強管制學生簽證的計畫，譬如不再允許外國人在等待學生簽證批准期間在美國修課，也禁止拿觀光簽證入境的外國人申請學生簽證，除非他們入境前表明意圖。

九一一驚爆案十九名劫機者都持有美國簽證入境，其中一人持學生簽證。有兩人在申請把觀光簽證改為學生簽證後，到佛羅里達州上飛行訓練學校，另兩人簽證逾期居留。

顧到國家安全需求，並讓各國學生在我們學術界做出珍貴貢獻。」

他強調，這個限制外國學生攻讀專業的計畫只是初步階段，而且只是討論過程成果。

移民局說，該局去年簽發六十五萬九千份學生簽證，美國境內有兩百多萬名外籍學生。

「高等教育記事報」先前已報導過政府這項計畫。該報說，由於政府跨機構工作小組在研擬計畫時未與大學主管接洽，一些教育專家擔心政府會限制外籍學生攻讀核子科技與生物科技等專業。

強德洛否認這項說法，他強調在研擬計畫時，教育、學術和科學界都會參與討論。

【社區新聞】 歡迎社區機構 提供新聞稿

三月二十六日的司法公聽會中，成人俱樂部(Centerfold)的賣酒執照被扣留。一位社區議員表示，「我們對這件事深感挫折，因為Centerfold的賣酒執照早在二月份時就被扣留了」。

華埠三月治安稍改善 唯獨召妓問題引民怨

在四月三日的華埠社區安全會議中，波士頓A-1區的警察局指揮官Bernard O'Rourke表示，「華埠社區在三月的治安狀況良好，沒有殺人、打群架事件發生。」但是，美中不足的是社區民眾感覺社區內的召妓問題日益嚴重。

在社區安全會議中，一位女士表示，「他的丈夫時常被華埠街上的應召女郎攔阻，問她的丈夫是否為警員。她的丈夫說『不是』後，應召女郎就會告知她是應召女，會提供特別的『服務』。另一個華埠居民也抱怨說，『召妓問題帶來社區噪音和販賣毒品的問題』。

Bernard O'Rourke 在回覆以上問題時表示，「我們已經加派了兩位員警在華埠街道上巡邏，尤其加強在禁止色情交易的工作上」。

移民法律

解析聯邦公報：

觀光商務簽證及

轉換學生身份規定

移民局四月十二日在聯邦公報上公佈商務觀光在美停留期限及轉換學生身份新規定的相關計劃，並徵詢社會大眾對這些新規定的建議。相關內容與我們預期的相類似，再此我們對主要內容再加以解析如下：

· 生效日：禁止B簽證持有者申請轉換學生身份的生效時在今天生效。至於B簽證持有者在美的停留期限的新規定則是在法規公佈至少三十天後(五月十三日)才會生效，因為這個規定仍要徵詢大眾的意見才會有最後的定論。

· B簽證在美停留期限：入境時最長可以允許停留期限(包括延期)為六個月的時間。但是通常移民官可能給予的停留期限為三十天。移民官會依照各人的情況不同而有權給予較長或較短的停留期限，三十天的停留期限並不是一個絕對的標準，但不會超過六個月。

· 持B簽證入境轉換為學生身份：除非在入境時已經向移民官表示有可能在美轉換為學生身份，並在I-94上註明，否則將不被允許轉換為學生身份，但是並沒有對轉換其他非移民身份加以限定。必須要注意的是，如果入境時只被允許停留30天，在要求轉換為其他身份時將有困難，因為在入境後六十天內轉換其他身份會有被認定為濫用觀光簽證的傾向。

· 禁止持B簽證入境轉換學生身份批准前入學：從四月十二日開始生效，任何人持B-1及B-2簽證在今天或之後入境美國者適用這個法規。禁止持B簽證入境轉換學生身份批准前入學，若是在移民局批准轉換學生身份前入學的話，移民局將拒絕這個申請。

州及地方警察單位將可能執行移民法

民法

司法部預計在近期內允許州及地方的警察執法單位執行移民法令。這項合作計劃是一九九六年非法移民重罪及移民責任法所允許的，但是為了鼓勵民眾勇於檢舉犯罪而不必擔心他們的非法移民身份曝光，許多地區警察局限制執法單位要求民眾提出他們在美國的移民身份證明，所以自一九九六年以來司法部一直沒有執行這項合作計劃。

自從九一一事件之後，司法部如何強力執行移民政策受到大家的注目，在移民局只有區區兩千名移民官執行移民政策的情況下，在美國有約三十二萬人尚未被要求遣送出境，更有超過六百萬的非法移民在美國。如果司法部要求州及地方法律單位配合執行移民法的話，相信非法移民及該被遣送出境的人數會大量降低。

然而自從九一一事件後，少數在佛州及北卡的地區警察單位已經被要求代為執行移民法。但是這些執法行動讓警察單位飽受批評，認為司法部的這項合作計劃破壞了移民社區對警察的信任。此外，除了大家關切地方警察參與執行移民法對移民社區的影響外，也對地區警察是否有足夠的訓練來執行複雜的移民法感到懷疑，同時更對警察在執行犯罪法與移民法的取捨間的訓練十分關心。一些地方警察局已經對參與這項合作計劃的可能性表示保留態度，Dallas的警察局長也說這樣一來會加重他們已經十分沉重的工作負擔。

雖然司法部的這項計劃的詳細內容還未公佈，但是據了解在司法部的這項計劃中提及，執行移民法是州及地方警察單位的「天職」。

2451k 月審議

美國國會參院兩黨領袖16日表示，院

會可望下月審議前移民法的第245(1)條款，而不包括245(2)條款的「加強邊界安全及入境簽證改革法案」，則可望數日內在參院院會表決通過。

眾議院院會已分別於去年底及今年初兩度通過「加強邊界安全及入境簽證改革法案」。其中一案含延長移民法245(2)條款，另一案則未含之。

而參院院會上周五開始審議不包括245(1)的加強邊界安全法案。

反對此案的參院撥款委員會主席勃德，十五日在院會提出所有進口美國產品須先證明非由奴工生產的修正案後，此案又添變數。

參院多數黨領袖戴維斯在記者會中答覆問題時指出，「加強邊界安全及入境簽證改革法案」，可望數日內在參院院會表決通過。而參院少數黨領袖羅特，今天在另一場記者會中說，他支持245(2)條款，他期望參院院會下月審議245(1)，並期望參院表決通過。

布希總統也說，行政當局編列了邊界安全預算。他說，應該讓美國政府知道什麼人來到美國、來美目的、在美停留多久。他說，美國政府已增加海岸防衛隊的預算，以確保美國各入境關口安全。

「加強邊界安全法案」規定美政府明年10月前，須在全國各出入境關口全面實施非公民出入境自動化系統，記錄追蹤所有出入美國的外籍人士。法案還要求執法單位將所有關於非公民的紀錄，都知會移民局。

前移民法的第245(2)條款，則允許難民移民資格卻已先喪失在美合法身分者，繳付一千元罰款留在美國接受移民面談，而毋須依法律規定先行離境而在美國駐外使領館面談。

舢舨

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司徒賢律師在全美十大法律學院，紐約大學畢業，是麻省、新澤西、紐約三州註冊專業律師。曾獲香港、(一週刊)、台灣(聯合報)、美國世界日報、(Boston Globe)、(San Francisco Chronicle) 訪問有關法律政策。

LEGAL NOTICE

The Quincy Housing Authority is requesting proposals for Project-Basing Section 8 assistance for existing housing projects. The QHA is allowed to make available a maximum of 180 units of Section 8 Project-Based Assistance, depending upon funding availability. At the current time, the Authority is contemplating making available 20 units. This number may change as the Authority's 'lease up' of available assistance changes or if the Authority receives additional assistance. Only proposals submitted in response to this advertisement will be considered. The PHA selects its program participants based upon HUD regulations, lottery number (or date and time of application) and local residency preference (upon its implementation date). Copies of the Request for Proposals can be obtained from the Quincy Housing Authority, contact Terry Champion at (617) 847-4350. Proposals will be received by the Quincy Housing Authority Attention: Kathleen Healy, 80 Clay Street, Quincy, Massachusetts, 02170, until 2:00 p.m., on May 31, 2002. The Awarding Authority (QHA Board of commissioners) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HOUSING

一些律師認為翻譯員的重要性常被忽視，事實上，這些法院翻譯員的職責包括為刑事被告、其家屬及被害人解釋法律程序，翻譯刑事及民事案件證人的證辭，其地位極為重要，能幫助被告瞭解解情況並積極參與案件。

支持法庭翻譯的其他障礙

除了經費危機外，法庭翻譯的支持者必需面臨另一個障礙，就是大家對法庭翻譯服務使用者的誤解。州代表官員Peter Kontoujian表示，「法庭翻譯的支持者必需協助破除這個誤解。因為很多人認為只有那些非法移民或罪犯才需法庭翻譯員。」Kontoujian指出，「若有人被控訴有罪，但是臨時請不到何時的翻譯人員，這個人就必需多待在監獄幾天等候，直到有合適的翻譯人員以聽審。」(編輯按：這是非常不合人權的。)

W. Perry Wu提醒大家，「需要法庭翻譯的人包括那些人身自由遭到危害而尋求保護的人、那些遭房東非法強行驅逐的房客或是那些尋求辯護的人。」

雖然那些在財政上趨於保守的人士認為，「州政府不可能在任何時候都有辦法支持，所有」的語言翻譯。

W. Perry Wu表示，「大部分時候所需要的語言翻譯有十多種，包括西班牙語、東南亞國家的語言如中文。」

假若法庭翻譯員的經費無法獲得追加，也無法從其他的法庭經費周轉，將會有什麼事情發生？根據法庭翻譯的支持者表示，將有成千的非英語人口的法權利被剝奪。

那下一個會計年度就沒有如此憂慮了嗎？法庭行政辦公室的 Augie Grace表示，「我們會盡力爭取充分的法院翻譯經費，希望明年不會有經費短缺的問題。但是回顧去年我們也是作同樣的事情，我們原本認為今年不會有此問題，但是還是遭遇了經費短缺的問題。」

目前法院官員盡力籌款，希望在四月十五日經費用盡後，仍能支付約顧人員的薪資，但以目前財務狀況看來，希望渺茫。一位律師有心地表示，面對日益增多的外國人及移民涉案，翻譯人手短缺的情況，將迫使法庭系統遭到嚴重的阻礙。

「法庭翻譯」知多少？

法庭翻譯員的薪資如何呢？假如通過認證考試的翻譯員在法院工作一天的薪資為二百五十元，半天為一百六十元。若是還沒通過認證的考試的翻譯員在法院工作一天的薪資為一百六十五元，半天為一百零五元。

在公元一九九九年，在麻州有兩萬三千非英語人口在刑事或民事法庭上利用法庭翻譯員，這些案件包括家庭暴力事件、孩子監護權的爭取及房東不當驅逐房客都案件。在公元兩千零一年有五萬七千非英語人口利用法庭翻譯員。需求增加了百分之四十三。

法庭翻譯需求最高的語言依次為西班牙語、葡萄牙語、克里奧爾語(南北美洲的歐非混血所說的法國、西班牙或英國方言)、越南語、中文、廣東話、波蘭語及俄羅斯語。

根據麻州法律，非英語人口有權在訴訟時要求法庭翻譯服務。假如你需要法庭翻譯員，你可以填妥「法庭翻譯服務要求表」(Request for Interpreter Form)傳真到(六六二)二六七一九二九三。或是將表格寄到Office of Court Interpreter Service, Two Center Plaza, Nine Floor Boston, MA 02108

「舢舨雙語雙週刊」是紐英崙地區唯一的中英雙語報紙，出版日期為每個月的第一個和第三個星期五。它非盈利、超越黨派，以提供紐英崙地區亞裔社區有關社區新聞、法律制度、個人理財、衛生保健等常識，目標在成為新移民踏入主流社會的橋樑。

投稿請寄：Sampan Editor, 200 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02116 或傳真至 617-482-2316。

住戶訂閱：\$30/year (3rd class mail); \$60/year (1st class mail). 有關訂閱或廣告請洽：王瑜 617-426-9492 ext. 206

社區簡訊

華美福利會「英語進階課程」現正招生，為中至高等英語教育程度之學生所設，有興趣者請於以下日期到華埠天滿街二百號參加編班考試：四月二十三、二十四、二十五日(星期一至四)考試於上午九點開始，為時二個小時半，請勿遲到。查詢請電617-426-9492內線212鄧小姐。

華美福利會將於五月六日(星期一)正午十二點至一點邀請中國安全事務(China Securities Regulatory Commission)主席顧問梁定邦律師演講，講題為「未來十年的中國」。梁定邦曾任香港醫院管理局成員、香港中文大學校董會副主席、香港聯合交易所前理事、美國加州職業律師、香港政府政務主任，現任哈佛大學訪問學者。坐位有限，詳情請洽Catherine Grupp 617-426-9492 ext.204。

中華耆英會康樂樓及波士頓公共健康局定於五月九日(星期四)在康樂樓聯合舉辦「皮膚癌測試」保健活動，透過先進儀器，為市民檢查皮膚，如果發現有患皮膚癌的徵兆，可作進一步檢查，及早治療。如果身上有任何特殊斑點，想直道是否為皮膚癌，請致電(六一七)五四二一七四五八向黃姑娘報名。歡迎各界人士參加，不分男女，不限年齡，但需事先報名。

波士頓僑教中心表示，為服務僑胞，提升僑民電腦知識，該中心特開辦中文電腦班，採一人一機，小班制教學。課程內容有：電腦入門、網際網路、WORD、EXCEL及HTML網頁設計等。每期課程為六週，每週二小時，學費120元。名額有限，額滿為止，有興趣者請至僑教中心洽詢報名：65 Harrison Ave. 6F Boston, (617) 482-3292。

華埠社區議會會於每月第三週的星期一下午六時在華埠的夏里臣街一百二十五號天主教堂舉行。

華埠安全委員會會議於每月第一週的星期三上午十時半起，在華埠華盛頓街八八號華信屋會議室舉行。

糧食卷面臨減裁危機 盼社區民眾行動爭取挽回

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哈佛中國論壇年會 探討中國經濟持續增長

哈佛大學甘迺迪政府學院、哈佛商學院亞洲商業俱樂部協辦，以「可能的任務？關注中國經濟的持續增長」為主題的第五屆哈佛中國論壇年會日前假哈佛大學商學院舉行。

討論在全球經濟衰退的狀況下，中國大陸經濟成長以及未來經濟展望。

哈佛中國論壇表示，在目前全球經濟不景氣的情況下，中國大陸的經濟卻持續的穩定發展，加上進入WTO和二零零八年將舉辦奧運會都將更刺激中國大陸的市場同時與世界接軌。他們希望藉由此次年會讓更多人了解中國大陸未來的經濟發展和社會改革開放的腳步。

主辦單位請到中國銀行行長劉明康、中國證券監管委員會首席顧問梁定邦擔任主講人。劉明康和與會者分析目前大陸銀行界及財經市場的情況，其優缺點以及未來改革的方向和重點等等他表示，在加入WTO後，大陸必須拋棄以往的負擔，視野需更開闊以面對全球化競爭的壓力。

封面故事

法庭翻譯員面臨生存危機 對司法體系恐有不良影響

假如你來自一個非英語系國家，你的英語能力足以問路、買東西或在銀行開個人帳號似乎是很足夠了。若你能閱讀英語報紙、在工作場所所用英語與美國本地人溝通似乎更是了不起了。因為母語文化的差異，在日常生活中你雖口頭上說「是」，本意卻是「不是」，你同意地點點頭，但並不表示你十分贊同這些情況。這些情況在法庭上是禁止的，否則會妨礙司法的公義。這就是為什麼許多法官、律師、法庭翻譯員和移民支持者對四月中旬麻州法庭將耗盡充作翻譯員及約顧人員的一千一百七十萬經費一事表示憂慮。除非立法機構及代州長批准追加經費，否則屆時法庭將停止某些服務。

波士頓法庭的副法官 John T. Lu 表示，「這是項危機，非英語的民眾在訴訟時得不到協助，就得不到法律上的平等。」一旦翻譯經費無著落，那些牽涉到非英語人口的案件和聽證會將會被迫延至下一個會計年度，包括那些緊急的家庭暴力案件或終身監禁的案件。

為了解決經費不足的問題，法庭已凍結新聘員工的計劃，在原先八千名員工中裁掉了二百七十人，刪減了補助員工旅遊的計劃，讓三百四十九人提早退休，有些員工更是無酬工作八天。但是，法官官員及其支持者表示財務仍困難，還是需要州政府預算的補助。專司行政與管理的法庭庭長 (the Trial Court Justice for Administration and Management) 向麻州立法官員 Barbara A. Dorch-Okara 要求一百七十萬元的補助金以應急。

麻州亞美律師協會 (Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts) 主席 W. Perry 表示：

「雖然州政府經費的節制迫使法官官員必需通過某些預算刪減案，但我認為麻州法庭翻譯的服務必需持續下去，不能被縮水。」由於州政府經費有限，法庭翻譯支持者希望立法官員能有些應變來解決問題：擴增法庭經費，將法庭其他較不重要的經費轉移到法庭翻譯的支持上。目前法庭的權限只能將法庭翻譯經費延續至四月三十日，支持者希望能延續指六月三十日。

法庭翻譯員是司法系統正常運作的要素

即使在經費危機之前，翻譯人員就已供不應求，案件常因沒有翻譯而延後。通常法庭一天需要一百位翻譯

員，其中只有十一位正式員工，其他百分之九十二都是約雇人員，按日計酬，按日計酬。這些約顧人員直接受到這次經費危機的衝擊。

支持者擔心支付法庭翻譯員的經費沒有著落後，這些持有證照的專業翻譯員必需另謀他職。等到經費回流後，這些持證照的翻譯員因有其他工作，法庭就必需救急用那些資格不足的翻譯人員。

John T. Lu 補充說明，「在法庭上為非英語人士翻譯，並不是隨便請那些會講兩種語言的人就可以作的事。昨天，我就聽審了一件案子聘請了兩位人員翻譯同一種語言：克里奧而語（南北美洲之歐非混血人種所說的法國、西班牙或英國方言）。有這樣的翻譯服務不能用「奢侈」或「微不足道」來形容，而是「非常需要」的服務設施。」



法庭翻譯員 Debra Danielle (中右)、Annette Ramos (左)、波士頓學院法學院教授 Carwina Weng (右) 向參議員 Robert S. Creedon 助理 Thomas G. Brophy (中左) 表達法庭翻譯員的重要性。

Lu 再說「若有一個英語不夠熟練的人到他的法庭來要求判決，他會等到有資格的法庭翻譯員來協助不可。否則有可能在判決時有疏失，而破壞案件案子的公正性。」

一些律師認為翻譯員的重要性常被忽視，事實上，這些法院翻譯員的職責包括為刑事被告、其家屬及被害

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